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**ALBANIA.** 18 Mar.—Reports from Belgrade stated that thirty people had been arrested following a bomb explosion outside the Soviet Embassy on 19 February. Two decrees were subsequently issued ordering the surrender of all firearms and explosives and the ending of terrorism, terrorists being warned that they would be tried within ten days of capture and would have no right of appeal. Unconfirmed reports reaching London said that a plot to overthrow the Communist regime and an attempt to liquidate the Russian diplomatic and military mission had been discovered and a state of emergency had been proclaimed. The number of Albanians arrested was given as between 200 and 300. It was learned that Tirana Radio had announced the dismissal of Spiro Spano, the Vice-Premier, and Rita Marko, the Minister of Industry. A widespread purge of Communist officials was also reported.

**ARAB LEAGUE.** 10 Mar.—*Morocco.* At a special meeting of the League's Political Committee which was called by the Egyptian Government to consider the situation in Morocco, a sub-committee under Ahmed el Shukairy, League Assistant Secretary-General, was appointed to study and report on 'certain matters'. Abd el Krim, Moroccan Riff leader in exile in Cairo, appealed before the Committee for the union of all North African peoples against France.

13 Mar.—*Morocco.* Mustafa Nahas Pasha, Egyptian Premier, announced that the League political committee had decided, as a first step, to send a Note to the French Government urging the granting of independence to Morocco.

**ARGENTINA.** 1 Mar.—*La Prensa.* Following strong U.S. and British representations to the Government, Mr McCombe and Mr Shea were released (*see p.* 118). The printing works of *La Prensa* were closed and guarded by police.

5 Mar.—*Great Britain.* Trade and financial talks with Great Britain reopened in Buenos Aires.

6 Mar.—*La Prensa.* Legal proceedings were instituted against Señor Alberto Paz, owner of *La Prensa*, under a decree referring to crimes against the safety of the State.

8 Mar.—*La Prensa.* Señor Borlenghi, Minister of the Interior, rejected a request for President Perón's intervention in the *La Prensa* dispute on the ground that it was purely a labour conflict and beyond the Government's scope.

9 Mar.—*La Prensa.* The Government-controlled General Confederation of Labour decided on a boycott against the paper and called a fifteen minute strike for 13 March in sympathy with the trade unions involved in the conflict.

12 Mar.—U.S. statement on *La Prensa* dispute (*see United States*).

13 Mar.—*La Prensa.* The Government-controlled General Confederation of Labour ordered all foreign and Argentinian telegraph and wireless companies not to accept or deliver telegrams for *La Prensa*. (A Washington despatch interpreted the order as an attempt by the

Government to prevent members of *La Prensa's* staff from accepting offers of space made by other papers in the Americas.)

*La Voz del Interior*, a Radical daily in Cordoba City and one of Argentina's oldest and most important newspapers, was prevented from appearing by a technique on the part of Cordoba newsvendors similar to that used against *La Prensa*. Several demands were made, including exclusive delivery by members of their union and the right to have the paper's accounts inspected by the union's auditors.

15 Mar.—The sale of '*La Voz del Interior*' was prevented by the Newsvendors' Union for the third consecutive day.

16 Mar.—*La Prensa*. A resolution approving the seizure of *La Prensa* and investigation of its activities was adopted in the Chamber of Deputies by 85 votes to 14.

AUSTRALIA. 1 Mar.—*Strikes*. E. C. Roach, assistant general secretary of the Waterside Workers' Federation, was sentenced to a year's imprisonment for contempt of court as a result of certain of his writings in the *Maritime Worker*. Within an hour of his sentence most work ceased on the Sydney waterfront.

2 Mar.—A mass meeting of dockers decided to return to work on 5 March but resolved to ask all trade unions to protest against the sentence on Roach.

*Defence*. Mr Menzies, Prime Minister, speaking at a conference of State Premiers, said that Australia must be ready for emergency by the end of three years, and must do more than supply a base. He stated that the present defence programme provided for a vote of £A84 m. for materials but this must be increased to more than £A800 m. The armed forces would be augmented, and he estimated a total mobilization strength of 183,000 by the end of 1953.

Mr Menzies announced the appointment of Mr Spender, Minister of External Affairs, as Ambassador to the United States in succession to Mr Makin, who would retire in May.

4 Mar.—*Labour Party Federal Conference*. The conference decided by 19 votes to 17 to approve compulsory military training for home defence 'subject to proper regard for the national economy'. Members of the Parliamentary Labour Party were instructed not to vote against the National Service Bill before the Senate. Further socialization and the introduction of a referendum on the abolition of the Senate were proposed in other resolutions passed. Opposition to a longer working week was also declared.

5 Mar.—*Strikes*. The Governor-General signed a proclamation declaring that a state of emergency existed on the waterfront but that it would not be enforced till 8 March to give the Waterside Workers' Federation the opportunity to withdraw their ban on overtime.

7 Mar.—*Strikes*. The Federal Council of the Waterside Workers' Federation decided to lift the ban on overtime on 9 March and to seek a review of the recent wage award.

*Japanese War Criminals*. Seven former members of the Japanese Navy were sentenced to death by an Australian war crimes court at Los

AUSTRALIA (*continued*)

Negros, Admiralty Islands, for the mass execution of prisoners of war. On the same charge, two others received life sentences, and three were sentenced to fifteen years' imprisonment.

9 Mar.—*Communist Party Dissolution Act*. The High Court ruled by 6 votes to 1 that the Act was an invalid exercise of the Commonwealth's defence power on which it rested.

*Arbitration Act*. The House of Representatives passed by 51 votes to 36 a Bill amending the Arbitration Act so as to strengthen the authority of the Arbitration Court and providing measures for dealing with disregard of its awards.

13 Mar.—Mr Menzies, speaking in the House on the High Court's judgement invalidating the Communist Party Dissolution Act, said that it disclosed grievous limitations of the Commonwealth Parliament's powers and crippled the Government's ability to deal with the Communist conspiracy. He said that the Senate's wilful obstruction of legislation for which the Government had obtained a clear mandate prevented any strong, effective Government, and he challenged the Labour Party to end the deadlock by rejecting the Banking Bill in the Senate for a second time and so facilitate an appeal to the people.

*Strikes*. Northern miners voted to end their token one-day-a-week strike against the incentive pay award.

14 Mar.—The Senate decided, by 31 votes to 25, to refer the Banking Bill to a select committee.

15 Mar.—*Defence*. The Senate passed the National Service Bill.

16 Mar.—Mr Menzies advised the Governor-General in a written document to grant a double dissolution of Parliament. He maintained that the Senate's reference of the Banking Bill to a select committee constituted a second failure on the part of the Senate to pass a Bill transmitted to it by the House of Representatives within three months—which under the constitution gave ground for a double dissolution.

17 Mar.—Mr McKell, Governor-General, granted Mr Menzies' request for a double dissolution of Parliament. Mr Menzies said that the broad issue of the coming election would be whether the electors wished to see the Government's mandate to deal with Communism carried out or obstructed by a Labour-dominated Senate. There were two ways of procuring the necessary powers: one was to ask the states to refer additional powers to the Commonwealth, and the other was to secure the writing of additional powers into the Constitution as the result of a referendum to the people. A solution of the problem had still to be settled. Dr Evatt (Labour) said that the election would be fought primarily on the serious inflation and the failure of the Government to reduce the cost of living.

18 Mar.—It was announced that elections to both Houses of Parliament would take place on 28 April.

AUSTRIA. 16 Mar.—*Bulgaria*. It was learned that the Bulgarian Legation had instructed all Bulgarian nationals living in Vienna to return to Bulgaria by the end of June.

**BELGIUM.** 6 *Mar.*—*Defence.* The House of Representatives passed a Bill extending military service from one to two years.

9 *Mar.*—*War Crimes.* Gen. von Falkenhausen, former German Military Governor of Belgium and Northern France, and Gen. Reeder, former head of the German civil administration in Belgium, were sentenced by a military court to twelve years' penal servitude for authorizing the execution of hostages and the deportation of Jews and Belgian workers. Gen. Bertram, former German Governor of Liège, was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment.

**BRAZIL.** 13 *Mar.*—A report was issued by Senor Lafer, Finance Minister, which emphasized the need for economies to combat inflation and remedy 'a grave economic situation'. The serious inflation and high cost-of-living were attributed largely to excessive bureaucratic and unproductive expenditure.

**BRITISH EAST AFRICA.** 4 *Mar.*—*Kenya.* A statement issued by the African unofficial members of the Legislative Assembly declared that a demand had been made in the recent political talks in Nairobi that the number of African unofficial members should equal the total of Europeans and Asians. The European unofficial members issued a statement which, except for supporting the Muslim claim for two seats and a communal roll of voters, opposed any change in unofficial representation.

**BRITISH WEST AFRICA.** 2 *Mar.*—*Nigeria.* Announcing the budget for 1951-52, the Governor said that expenditure was estimated at £33,324,180 of which £1,083,570 was for defence.

**BULGARIA.** 5 *Mar.*—Report of military preparations (*see Yugoslavia*).

12 *Mar.*—*Turkey.* It was learned that the Turkish Government had protested at the searching of a Turkish diplomatic courier *en route* from Sofia to Istanbul.

16 *Mar.*—Instructions to nationals in Vienna to leave (*see Austria*).

**BURMA.** 1 *Mar.*—A British and a Swiss citizen were shot dead by terrorists in Tavoy.

8 *Mar.*—*Great Britain.* Thakin Nu, Prime Minister, announced in Parliament that the Government had asked Britain for a loan of £5 m. to buy a third of the shares in the Burmah Oil Company which was shortly to resume production.

*China.* The Prime Minister said that relations between China and Burma were friendly and he had received an assurance in a letter handed to the Burmese Ambassador in Peking the previous month, that the Peking Government had no territorial ambitions. The assurance had been given after the Peking Government had had their attention drawn to a map of China published in the official Chinese *People's Weekly* in which parts of Burma were incorporated. The Peking Government explained that the map was an old one in which the Sino-Burmese



BURMA (*continued*)

frontier was shown as undemarcated, and it suggested that demarcation should be jointly negotiated.

12 Mar.—*Elections*. The Parliamentary Elections Supervision Committee recommended the postponement from 4 May until 4 January 1952 of the last date on which general elections could be held. The Committee pointed out that 12 million of the 17 million population were now under Government administration and it considered that in another eight months free elections should be possible in most areas if not throughout the country.

CANADA. 2 Mar.—*Wheat Pool*. Mr St Laurent, Prime Minister, announced that the Government would add \$65 m. to the amount remaining to be distributed to western farmers as a final settlement of the five-year wheat pool. He pointed out that this amount was equivalent to the balance on the United Kingdom credit with Canada which would not be drawn, and said that the British Government had decided to make no further payment under the wheat agreement.

12 Mar.—*Foreign Trade*. Mr Abbott, Finance Minister, said in the House of Commons that the deficit with the United States had been greatly reduced since 1947 when restrictions were imposed on imports from the United States. Imports from Great Britain which were less than \$150 m. in 1946 had risen to \$300 m. in 1949 and to over \$400 m. in 1950. Imports from other sterling areas had risen from \$190 m. in 1949 to \$230 m. in 1950. Exports to Great Britain had fallen from \$710 m. in 1949 to \$470 m. in 1950.

13 Mar.—*Defence*. Appropriations of \$64,250,000 for the new defence production department were announced in addition to the Defence Department estimates of \$1,600 m.

CEYLON. 4 Mar.—*United States: Colombo Plan*. The U.S. Embassy in Colombo announced that the conference of U.S. diplomatic representatives in South Asia which ended the previous day in Nurawa Eliya had decided that the United States should continue full participation in the Consultative Committee for the Colombo Plan.

CHINA. 6 Mar.—It was reported by the Franciscan headquarters in Rome that Father Dillon, American Apostolic Prefect of Shasi, had been arrested.

8 Mar.—Thakin Nu on Sino-Burmese relations (*see Burma*).

12 Mar.—A Canton dispatch to Hong Kong reported the execution on 11 March of fifty-one counter-revolutionary agents. Another report from Changsha reported the execution at Lingling in Hunan of twenty-two persons convicted of arson.

*Refugees from Malaya*. A Singapore dispatch reported that, according to a recent Peking broadcast, a Chinese relief committee for overseas Chinese refugees from Malaya had been formed and a telegram sent to Mr Attlee requesting permission for it to visit Malaya to investigate conditions of 'suffering Chinese'.

18 Mar.—British Notes on Chinese Army (*see Great Britain*).

**COUNCIL OF EUROPE.** 16 Mar.—*Germany*. A statement issued after a meeting in Paris of the Committee of Ministers announced that the admission of the German Federal Republic as a full member of the Council had been agreed in principle and would be referred to the Standing Committee of the Consultative Assembly before a final decision was taken in May.

*Rights of Man Declaration.* The Committee of Ministers decided to refer the question of an additional protocol to the Declaration of the Rights of Man to a committee of experts due to meet at Strasbourg on 18 April.

*Revision of the Statute.* The Committee accepted various proposals on which agreement had been reached by the experts. The most important were: (1) that the joint committee of representatives of the Committee of Ministers and of the Consultative Assembly should be regarded as a third consultative organ of the Council machinery; (2) representatives to the Assembly might be elected by national Parliaments instead of being selected solely by Government nomination.

17 Mar.—*Revision of the Statute.* At the concluding session of the Committee of Ministers in Paris it was agreed that the Statute should be amended to allow the Council: (1) 'to take the initiative in negotiations between its members with a view to the creation of specialized agencies', and (2) to conclude agreements with other international organizations, such as the U.N. specialized branches and the I.L.O. It was decided that an annual report of the O.E.E.C. would be submitted to the Council which would first be studied by the Committee of Ministers and then, if considered suitable, be passed to the Consultative Assembly. The Ministers also agreed to modify Article 1 of the Statute to include political matters among those the Assembly would be competent to discuss. Matters in dispute concerning revision of the Statute were referred to the joint committee of the Assembly and the Committee of Ministers.

**CYPRUS.** *Erratum.* On p. 121 under 17 February for '(Mr Venizelos' speech) on 19 February' please read 'on 15 February'.

**CZECHOSLOVAKIA.** 1 Mar.—British Note (*see Great Britain*).

*Five-year Plan.* It was learned from *Rude Pravo* that a proposal of Dr Dolansky, Minister of Planning, to complete the five-year plan in three years had been approved by the Communist Party Executive.

4 Mar.—The arrest was announced of Mme Clementis, wife of the former Foreign Minister whose arrest was reported on 27 February.

5 Mar.—Protest and flight of Ambassador in India (*see India*).

8 Mar.—*Wages.* Mr Zupka, chairman of the Revolutionary Trade Union Congress, announced at a meeting of the executive committee that overtime rates would in future be the same as ordinary rates and Sunday shifts would not be paid at all. Special buying facilities for shock workers would be discontinued and they would in future only receive

CZECHOSLOVAKIA (*continued*)

honour awards. Mr Zapotocky, Prime Minister, said that unless production were increased the five-year plan would fail and the country become bankrupt.

It was learned that a group of Czechs had been sentenced in Moravia to terms of imprisonment ranging from ten years to life for espionage.

9 Mar.—Dr Cepička, Defence Minister, declared in a speech to army officers that Dr Clementis's accomplices in the army ranged from generals to privates. He said that in the future every army commander would be responsible for the political and military education of his troops, and the Communist Party's position in the army would be strengthened.

10 Mar.—*Church and State*. Prague wireless announced that Dr Beran, Archbishop of Prague, who had been under house arrest for two years, had been ordered to live outside Prague and heavily fined. It was also announced that Dr Opatřný, the incumbent of St Vitus Cathedral, had resigned and would be succeeded by Dr Stahlek who would take over Dr Beran's work.

11 Mar.—It was announced that Gen. Rejcin, deputy Defence Minister, and Col. Kopold, an official in the State Security Ministry, had been arrested and charged with being accomplices of Dr Clementis.

12 Mar.—*Church and State*. Four Roman Catholic bishops and two diocesan administrators swore an oath of allegiance to the Czech Republic and the regime of the People's Democracy at a public ceremony attended by Zdener Fierlinger, Minister for Church Affairs.

13 Mar.—Abscondence of Czech diplomat in Berne (*see Switzerland*).

17 Mar.—*Church and State*. The Vatican announced the excommunication of all Roman Catholic members of the Government and of all priests supporting the Government.

18 Mar.—*Church and State*. It was learned that Mr Fierlinger had announced that Archbishop Beran would never be allowed to resume his duties as head of the Prague Archiepiscopal diocese or of the Catholic hierarchy in Czechoslovakia. He declared that Dr Beran had been the leader of an anti-Government conspiracy.

It was learned that three members of a group were sentenced to death and two others to long terms of hard labour for having killed the director of an economic corporation and a Government instructor in agricultural co-operative methods.

EGYPT. 5 Mar.—*Morocco*. The Chamber of Deputies unanimously denounced French 'methods of cruelty' in Morocco and declared full support for the Sultan and the Istiqlal. Salah ed Din Bey, Foreign Minister, told the Chamber that the Government felt it to be their duty to safeguard freedom and justice in Morocco and they were investigating reports on the situation there.

The Egyptian press for a second day printed unconfirmed accounts, believed to be without foundation, of French attacks on Moroccan cities and armed clashes between Moroccan and French troops.

6 Mar.—French denial of allegations in Egyptian press (*see France*).



7 Mar.—*Morocco*. The press campaign against French policy in Morocco was reported to be continuing though with less violence.

9 Mar.—*Morocco*. It was reported that Ahmed Saroit Bey, Egyptian Ambassador in Paris, had been recalled to Egypt for consultations on Morocco.

10 Mar.—Arab League session on Morocco (*see Arab League*).

13 Mar.—*National Bank of Egypt*. The Chamber of Deputies approved a law transforming the National Bank of Egypt into the central bank for Egypt, thus severing its previous link with sterling.

15 Mar.—Agreement with Britain on sterling balances (*see Great Britain*).

16 Mar.—Mr Gaitskell on sterling releases and Suez Canal restrictions (*see Great Britain*).

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION. 11 Mar.—It was announced that during a two-day meeting of the Council of O.E.E.C. at ministerial level on 9 and 10 March, a resolution had been passed urging members to take action to prevent inflation. The Council also passed a resolution calling on members to draw up long-term raw material production programmes with special emphasis on coal and steel.

The Council accepted an invitation to join the central group of the International Materials Conference.

FOUR-POWER CONFERENCE. 5 Mar.—A preliminary conference of British, French, U.S. and Soviet delegates to discuss the agenda for a later four-Power conference of Foreign Ministers opened in Paris. The heads of the delegations were as follows: Mr Davies (Britain), M. Parodi (France), Dr Jessup (United States), and Mr Gromyko (Soviet Union). Mr Davies proposed the following agenda on behalf of the western Powers: (1) examination of the causes of present international tensions in Europe and the means to secure a real and lasting improvement in relations between the Soviet Union and the United States, United Kingdom, and France; (2) completion of a treaty for the re-establishment of an independent and democratic Austria; (3) problems relating to the re-establishment of German unity and the preparation of a peace treaty. Mr Gromyko proposed the following Russian agenda: (1) fulfilment of the Potsdam agreement on the demilitarization of Germany and the prevention of German remilitarization; (2) acceleration of a peace treaty with Germany and the consequent withdrawal of the occupying Powers; (3) improvement of the European situation and consideration of a reduction of the armed forces of the four Powers.

7 Mar.—Mr Gromyko offered to agree to the inclusion of the question of the Austrian peace treaty on the agenda, provided that the part of the Italian peace treaty referring to Trieste was also included. He maintained that, by turning Trieste into a land and naval base, the western Powers had violated their obligations under the Italian peace treaty. Dr Jessup denied this allegation and said that the question was irrelevant to the Austrian peace treaty.

FOUR-POWER CONFERENCE (*continued*)

8 *Mar.*—An amended version of the second item on the proposed Soviet agenda which was submitted by Mr Gromyko included the restoration of German unity. Mr Davies said that the British Government did not refuse to discuss the question of German armament but it must be taken in the context of the international tension of which it was the result and not the cause.

10 *Mar.*—The western Powers put forward an amended version of item (1) of their draft agenda which read: 'Examination of the causes of international tension in Europe and of the means to secure a real and lasting improvement in the relations between the U.S.S.R., the United Kingdom, the United States, and France, such as: measures to eliminate the fear of aggression, the fulfilment of present treaty obligations, the examination of the existing level of armaments, and questions concerning Germany in this sphere.'

12 *Mar.*—Mr Gromyko proposed an amendment to the second item on the Soviet agenda, substituting the word 'conclusion' (of a German peace treaty) for 'acceleration', and omitting any reference to the withdrawal of the occupying Powers. He rejected the western Powers' amendment of 10 March on the ground that it placed the question of German armaments on the same footing as those of other Powers and was still vague enough to presage a discussion on rearmament as much as on disarmament.

14 *Mar.*—Mr Gromyko accepted the wording of the western item (3) and submitted two amendments to the Russian agenda which made it then read: (1) fulfilment by the four Powers of the Potsdam agreement on the demilitarization of Germany; (2) (identical with western item (3)) problems relating to the re-establishment of German unity, and the preparation of a peace treaty; (3) examination of the causes of present international tension in Europe and of the means to secure a real and lasting improvement in the relations between the U.S.S.R., the United States, United Kingdom, and France, including the question of the reduction of the armed forces of the four Powers.

15 *Mar.*—Dr Jessup submitted a new draft of the first western item which read: 'The examination of the present causes of international tensions in Europe and of the means to secure a real and lasting improvement in the relations between the U.S.S.R., United States, United Kingdom, and France, such as the existing level of armaments, its effect on the demilitarization of Germany, and the means for the control and reduction of armaments; measures to eliminate the fear of aggression; fulfilment of the present treaty obligations.'

FRANCE. 1 *Mar.*—Soviet Note *re* four-Power Conference (*see* U.S.S.R.).

*Government Crisis.* M. Bidault, the M.R.P. leader, was asked by President Auriol to form a Government, M. Pleven having declined on personal grounds to make a second attempt.

2 *Mar.*—The President asked M. Queuille, Radical Socialist, to form a Government, the attempt having been abandoned by M. Bidault.

3 Mar.—M. Mollet, secretary-general of the Socialist Party, was asked by the President to form a new Government after M. Queuille had informed him that he saw no chance of success.

5 Mar.—*Four-Power Conference q.v.*

Egyptian support for Moroccan nationalists (*see Egypt*).

Egyptian press allegations *re* French policy in Morocco (*see Egypt*).

6 Mar.—*Egypt: Morocco*. The Foreign Ministry issued categorical denials of allegations in the Egyptian press concerning French policy in Morocco. M. Schuman, Foreign Minister, also expressed his regret to the Egyptian Ambassador at the attitude of the Egyptian press.

M. Mollet failed to obtain in the National Assembly the necessary 311 votes (half the voting strength of the House) to secure election as Prime Minister, being opposed by both the Socialist-Radicals and the Independent Republicans. President Auriol called on M. Queuille to make a second attempt to form a Government.

Revision of Charter of Allied High Commission in Germany (*see Great Britain*).

Revision of the Statement of Principles (May 1949) on Berlin and of the Occupation Statute (*see Germany*).

7 Mar.—*Morocco*. Gen. Juin, Resident-General in Morocco, arrived in Paris from Morocco. He said that Morocco had never been so peaceable.

9 Mar.—M. Queuille was elected Prime Minister in the Assembly by 359 votes to 205 (Communists and a few Gaullists). There were 55 abstentions, mostly from the extreme right. M. Queuille's programme provided for elections before the summer, the voting of the Budget, and, in the matter of electoral reform, the substitution of a majority system for proportional representation with the onus of finding a formula left to the Assembly.

10 Mar.—*New Government*. M. Queuille announced his new Government, which differed from the previous Government only in the appointment of M. Pleven, M. Bidault, and M. Mollet as deputy Prime Ministers and in the dropping of M. Giaccobi, Socialist Radical, who was in charge of electoral reform. M. Queuille retained the Ministry of the Interior.

*Rassemblement du Peuple Français*. The national council of Gen. de Gaulle's R.P.F. passed two resolutions declaring that the R.P.F. in future would submit only its own members as candidates at general elections, and that, in the next legislature, elected R.P.F. candidates would form a homogeneous group.

11 Mar.—*R.P.F.* Addressing Gaullist delegates in Paris, Gen. de Gaulle said that any attempt to prolong the life of the present French Parliament beyond its legal term would mean civil war. He declared that the country would have a clear choice between the Communists, the coalition of Third Forces on the right, and 'the nation itself rallied round the R.P.F.'.

12 Mar.—Israeli Note *re* claim on Germany (*see Israel*).

13 Mar.—A Communist motion in the Assembly, challenging the Government's policy, was adjourned *sine die* by 388 votes to 180.

FRANCE (*continued*)

15 Mar.—*Electoral Reform*. The Assembly decided, by 318 votes to 282, to amend the previous Government's Bill on electoral reform so as to provide for 'a majority vote by single ballot according to lists for each *département*'. They also accepted, by 313 votes to 296, an amendment providing for the association of parties so that votes cast for them would be treated as if for a single list, the winning combination then sharing the seats according to a proportional system.

*Indo-China*. Gen. de Lattre de Tassigny, French High Commissioner and C.-in-C. in Indo-China, arrived in Paris.

GERMANY. 2 Mar.—*East Germany*. The Volkskammer (Lower House) passed a resolution addressed to the Bonn Parliament. It called for a joint resolution asking the four Powers to include the question of a German peace treaty on the agenda to be fixed by the four-Power Paris Conference and proposing that the treaty should include: the demilitarization of Germany and restoration of unity; guarantees of free trade and unfettered production; and the withdrawal of occupation troops within one year.

*West Germany: United States*. Gen. Norstad, Commander of the U.S. Air Force in Europe, said that as an 'initial but substantial step', U.S. air-power in Europe would be increased in a few months.

4 Mar.—*West Germany*. The Federal Government announced measures to restrict travel between east and west Germany which were designed to end the infiltration of Communist agents into west Germany.

A U.S. military police patrol shot and killed two East German People's Police in the U.S. Zone after they had resisted arrest near Bad Hersfeld, Hesse.

5 Mar.—*East Germany: Peace Treaty*. Having received no reply from the Bundestag to their request of 2 March for a joint declaration, the Volkskammer sent, through their President, an independent request to the four-Powers meeting in Paris asking that the question of a German peace treaty should be discussed and proposing conditions for the treaty.

*West Germany: War Criminals*. Mr Buttenwieser, U.S. assistant High Commissioner for policy, criticized in a speech at Bremen the German attitude towards the recent decisions which commuted the death sentences of twenty-one out of twenty-eight war criminals in Landsberg prison. He said that not one Cabinet Minister and no important Church dignitary had endorsed the just and generous spirit shown in the handling of the cases and only a small section of German leaders had publicly disowned the Nazi terror by acclaiming the just fate of the seven mass murderers.

6 Mar.—*Berlin: Revision of Statement of Principles*. The High Commission announced that the 'Statement of Principles' applying to west Berlin, which came into force on 14 May 1949 had been modified (*see Vol. VI, No. 10, p. 309*). The right of the western Commandants to review legislation passed by the Berlin City Council was waived, but the right to require that any amendment to the Berlin Constitution should

be approved was retained. All other legislation would be effective without review except that the powers of repeal and annulment were retained. It was stated that these powers would only be employed when legislation was held to be inconsistent with the revised statement of principles or with legislation of the occupation authorities, or to constitute a threat to the basic purposes of the occupation.

*West Germany: Occupation Statute.* A Three-Power Declaration, recognized by the Federal Government, announced the revision of the Occupation Statute and a decision on foreign affairs in fulfilment of the New York agreement of 19 September 1950. It authorized the Federal Government to establish a Foreign Ministry, and Embassies in any country where it already had Consulates, except in Britain, France, and the United States, where the Republic would be represented by 'official agents'. Foreign Missions would be formally accredited to the Republic, but the channel for relations between the Federal Government and the western Powers would continue to be the High Commission. Texts of international agreements would be subject to High Commission scrutiny, and to disapproval if found prejudicial to a German peace treaty.

It was further announced that the High Commission would relinquish its powers in the field of internal action and would exercise only formal supervision over foreign trade and exchange. Federal and *Länder* legislation would not be subject to prior review. The reserved powers in regard to decartelization would be exercised only to ensure the completion of allied programmes for steel, coal, the I.G. Farben combine, the great banks and film industries, and such actions, which, as at 31 December 1950, were called for under laws adopted by the High Commission or had been initiated through legal process taken under existing allied legislation. All powers over decartelization would be relinquished when the Federal Government had passed a suitable law, and over decentralization when the primary reorganization of the industrial trusts had been completed. Reserved powers covering the admission, care, and protection of displaced persons and refugees would be relaxed when the Federal Government had taken satisfactory action, including the safeguarding of their civil rights and compensation for victims of Nazi persecution.

The Chancellor, in a letter to the High Commission embodied in the document, stated that the Federal Government had agreed to accept responsibility in principle for Germany's pre-war and post-war debts. It recognized that economic assistance given since 8 May 1945 should have priority over all other foreign claims against Germany or German nationals, and it expressed willingness to co-operate in the distribution of defence materials and services.

The High Commission, in reply, stated that this priority right for claims in regard to assistance given since May 1945 would not be exercised 'in such a way as to restrict settlement of foreign-held claims arising out of trade agreements subsequent to 8 May 1945 essential to the recovery of the German Republic'.

Revision of the Charter of the Allied High Commission in Germany (see *Great Britain*).



GERMANY (*continued*)

*Berlin: Canal Control.* On the instructions of the British Commandant, controls were imposed on all barges plying between the Soviet Zone and the Soviet Sector of Berlin as they passed through the British Sector.

7 Mar.—*Berlin: Canal Control.* Fourteen barges and two tugs were stopped as a result of the new controls, but six barges without cargo belonging to Soviet-owned companies were allowed through.

A letter was sent by the Soviet Control Commission to Gen. Bourne, British Commandant, protesting against the detention of barges in the British Sector as a result of the new controls. It described the action as a breach of the New York and Paris agreements of 1949, demanded the immediate restoration of the position existing on 1 March 1948, and stated that the British authorities must bear full responsibility for any consequences of their action.

9 Mar.—*West Germany: German Unity.* A Government statement of principles for the restoration of German unity and the holding of all-German elections was approved by all members of the Bundestag except the Communists. A Note embodying the principles was later sent to the Allied High Commission asking that it should be considered at any future four-Power conference. The statement of principles declared that the first step to unity was the holding of free elections to a Constituent Assembly, and that these should first be preceded by the following measures in the Soviet Zone: (1) the restoration of German administration of justice, with independent courts; (2) the release of all political prisoners and the return of all deported persons; (3) the annulment of the 'law for the protection of peace'; (4) the dissolution of the State security service and similar organs.

Belgian sentences on German Generals (*see Belgium*).

11 Mar.—It was learned that the transfer of families from West Staaken to west Berlin, which had been proceeding since the Soviet assumption of control over the village on 1 February, had been halted owing to a ban on the removal of furniture.

*West Germany.* Police intervened when members of a Communist youth movement meeting in a hall in Essen repeatedly sent groups into the streets to distribute leaflets. Ten policemen and several Communists were injured. The police seized 30,000 leaflets.

12 Mar.—Israeli Note to four Powers *re* claim on Germany (*see Israel*).

13 Mar.—*Berlin: Canal Control.* In a reply to the Soviet letter of protest of 7 March, Gen. Bourne, British commandant, suggested to Mr Dengin, head of the Soviet Control Commission, that an early discussion of problems should take place. He stated that the U.S. and French commandants associated themselves with his suggestion. (It was reported that the control measures imposed by the British authorities had been officially stated to be intended to prevent smuggling, but they had been imposed after two and a half months of serious delays to canal traffic between Berlin and west Germany.)

14 Mar.—*East Germany: German Unity.* Herr Grotewohl, Premier,

condemned in a statement to the Volkskammer Dr Adenauer's proposals of 9 March for all-German elections because, he said, they would lead to the subjection of east Germany to west German law and the extension of the U.S. occupation to other parts of Germany. He declared that the German people must take the matter into their own hands and develop 'a national resistance movement' which would lead to a demand for a plebiscite on the question of west German rearmament. Propaganda would be intensified. He asserted that the Federal Government wished to provoke a civil war and a new world war, and he alleged that the remilitarization of west Germany was in full swing. The Volkskammer then passed a resolution condemning the Bundestag Note to the western Powers of 9 March and declaring that the Bonn leaders wished to provoke a civil war.

15 *Mar.—West Germany.* Following the approval of the Cabinet, Dr Adenauer was appointed Foreign Secretary by the President of the Republic.

16 *Mar.—West Germany: Occupation Costs.* The Allied High Commission transmitted to the Federal Government the budget of occupation costs and mandatory expenditures for the fiscal year 1951–2. The total for the three zones was 6,595 m. D-marks—an increase of 1,132 m. D-marks over the previous budget. A covering letter to Dr Adenauer pointed out that the increase was the result of the strengthening of allied forces in Germany in implementation of the 1950 New York decision to guarantee the security of west Germany and west Berlin in response to the Federal Government's request.

18 *Mar.—West Germany.* A conference of 'neutralist' groups decided to urge the proposed four-Power conference to agree to: (1) the holding of free, universal, equal, secret, and direct elections to a constituent assembly for all Germany; (2) an early peace treaty; (3) the renunciation of any form of armed organization, and (4) the immediate reduction of all occupation troops with a view to their early complete withdrawal. The conference was called on the initiative of Professor Noack's 'third front', Herr von Ostau, leader of the extreme right-wing National Union, and a representative of the east German Foreign Minister.

*East Germany-U.S.S.R.* The conclusion of a new trade agreement between east Germany and the Soviet Union was announced in Berlin.

*West Germany.* Herr Kaiser, Minister for all-German affairs, appealed in a speech in Düsseldorf for the return of the former German provinces east of the Oder-Neisse line.

*Berlin.* Professor Reuter, Burgomaster of west Berlin, declared in a statement that the Council of Foreign Ministers could never settle the German problem without first solving the problem of freedom in east Germany.

GREAT BRITAIN. 1 *Mar.—Soviet Note re four-Power conference (see U.S.S.R.).*

*Czechoslovakia.* A British Note in reply to the Czech Note of 7 Feb. was delivered to the Czech Embassy in London. The Note rejected the

GREAT BRITAIN (*continued*)

Czech allegations concerning British policy, re-emphasized the defensive character of western defence measures, and imputed responsibility for world tension to the Soviet post-war attitude. It spoke of the vast forces maintained by the Soviet Union both at home and abroad and Soviet hostility towards the free European countries formerly linked in friendship with Czechoslovakia, and it reminded the Czech Government of Soviet responsibility for the exclusion of Czechoslovakia from Marshall Aid, for the veto on discussion in the Security Council after the forcible overthrow of the Czech Government, and for the existence of the only military force in Germany, and also of Russia's failure to fulfil peace treaty obligations with Czechoslovakia's neighbours who had fought with Hitler in the war.

*Foreign Affairs: North Atlantic Treaty.* In a continuation of the Lords' debate on Foreign affairs, Lord Hall, First Lord of the Admiralty, said that the supreme strategic direction of the war in the North Atlantic area would be under the direction of the Standing Group which would consist of members of the Chiefs of Staff of Great Britain, the United States, and France, and which would have direct control over the Supreme Commander.

The Lord Chancellor spoke of the danger of aggression under the guise of civil war and said that the Government would not be deceived by anything which might happen, whether in central Europe, the Middle East, or further afield.

*Dollar Convention.* Mr Gaitskell, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said at the opening session of the Dollar Convention at Eastbourne that the Government continued to regard the dollar export drive as a vital objective. He appealed to the United States not to jeopardize western defence efforts by excessive stockpiling of important raw materials.

2 Mar.—The Government were defeated by 4 votes on a private member's motion condemning the Government's failure to build up stocks of raw material supplies and regretting that more use was not made of private traders. Mr Wilson, President of the Board of Trade, announced during the debate that further controls would be necessary to guarantee supplies for essential needs.

3 Mar.—*Jordan.* It was announced that as a result of financial discussions in London, agreement had been reached on the release of £2,500,000 sterling from the Jordan special account. An agreement had also been initialled for the settlement of financial questions outstanding since the ending of the Palestine mandate.

*Dollar Convention.* Mr Wilgress, High Commissioner for Canada, said at a session of the Dollar Convention in Eastbourne that as a result of the industrialization of Canada since the war the direction of her foreign trade had changed, and that whereas before the war the United States and Britain each took two-fifths of Canada's exports, the United States now took two-thirds and Britain only 15 per cent. He said that Canada wished to see Britain and Europe taking a higher proportion.

4 Mar.—Mr Gordon Walker, Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations, arrived back in the United Kingdom from South Africa.

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5 Mar.—Trade talks with Argentina re-opened in Buenos Aires. *Four-Power Conference, q.v.*

6 Mar.—*Germany*. Representatives of Great Britain, France, and the United States signed in London an instrument of revision of the Charter of the Allied High Commission. The revised version of Article 1 Paragraph 3 provided for the stationing of forces of the occupying Powers outside their respective zones, under agreement between the High Commissioners and the respective Commanders-in-Chief. The stationing of Allied forces employed on European defence in Germany would be agreed between the High Commissioners and the Cs.-in-C. of the zone concerned. Command of the forces was vested in the Cs.-in-C. regardless of their location, with the proviso that operational control over the forces of one Power, located in the zone of another, could be obtained by agreement between the C.-in-C. and the High Commissioner concerned.

Revision of the Statement of Principles (May 1949) on Berlin and of the Occupation Statute (*see Germany*).

7 Mar.—Soviet protest at detention of barges in Berlin (*see Germany*).

8 Mar.—*North Atlantic Treaty*. In a Commons debate on the Army estimates, Mr Eden and Mr Amery (Conservatives) said that at least six divisions should be contributed to Gen. Eisenhower's force.

9 Mar.—*Government Changes*. The appointment was announced of Mr Herbert Morrison, Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Commons, as Foreign Secretary in the place of Mr Ernest Bevin, who for health reasons would be given less onerous duties as Lord Privy Seal. Viscount Addison, Leader of the House of Lords, was appointed Lord President of the Council.

10 Mar.—*Yemen*. The terms were published of an agreement between Great Britain and the Yemen which came into force on 20 January. It provided for the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries before the end of 1951 and for a joint commission to demarcate frontiers and to settle past disputes which had taken place on the borders between the Yemen and the Aden Protectorate. In the event of the Commission's failure, the two Governments might appoint impartial commissioners to assist the Commission in reaching agreement. It was also agreed to curb propaganda likely to impair friendly relations between the two countries, and Britain undertook to assist the Yemeni Government in the economic and social development of the Yemen.

12 Mar.—*Italy*. Signor de Gasperi and Count Sforza, the Italian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, arrived in Great Britain for discussions with the British Government.

Anglo-Canadian trade figures (*see Canada*).

Israeli Note *re* claim on Germany (*see Israel*).

13 Mar.—*Budget*. The civil estimates for 1951-2 were published. They amounted to £67,356,357—which was £6,705,208 less than in 1950-1.

14 Mar.—*Italy*. It was announced that the Italian and British Ministers had agreed that Britain would help on a modest scale to

GREAT BRITAIN (*continued*)

alleviate Italian man-power problems by recruiting Italian miners for British pits and by providing scope for Italian technicians in British colonies in Africa.

British Note to Persia re oil nationalization (*see Persia*).

15 Mar.—*Anglo-Italian Statement: Trieste*. A joint statement issued after the conclusion of discussions between the British and Italian Prime Ministers and Foreign Ministers stated that the British Ministers had confirmed their adherence to the tripartite declaration of 20 March 1948 on Trieste with a view to settlement by conciliation, and the Italian ministers had expressed their desire to reach a friendly agreement with the Yugoslav Government on the subject.

The Italian Ministers emphasized at a press conference the importance of the reaffirmation by the western Powers of the principles of the 1948 declaration, and said that the United States had given an assurance through diplomatic channels and the French had done so at the recent conference at Santa Margherita. They disclosed that in the discussions they had expressed sympathy for the Greek and Turkish claims to be included in the North Atlantic Treaty and had appealed for a sympathetic British attitude towards the Council of Europe. Mr Morrison had given an assurance that Britain would co-operate in the Council to the extent that the geographical and psychological situation in Britain would allow.

*Egypt: Sterling Balances*. Mr Jay, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, announced in the Commons that an agreement in principle had been reached with the Egyptian Government whereby £150 m. of the £230 m. of Egypt's blocked sterling balances would be released over a period of between ten and thirteen and a half years. The future of the remaining balance of £80 m. would be discussed before the end of that period. The British Government would undertake to facilitate the supply of petroleum products to Egypt against payment in sterling up to a total value of £11 m. in each of the ten years 1951-60. Mr Churchill, Leader of the Opposition and Mr Eden, deputy Leader of the Opposition, expressed concern regarding the political implications of the agreement and said that it was impossible to divorce the facilities granted to Egypt in respect of petroleum from the Egyptian blockade of oil cargoes passing through the Suez Canal. They requested an assurance that the implementation of the agreement should await further study by the House. Mr Morrison, Foreign Secretary, said he would consider the matter.

16 Mar.—*Egypt*. Mr Gaitskell, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said in the Commons that the agreement with Egypt over the release of sterling balances was a satisfactory settlement of a long-standing dispute. He deplored Egypt's ban on the passage through the Suez Canal of tankers bound for Haifa but maintained that it was a political question involving other countries which could not be linked with purely bilateral financial discussions. Mr Eden again pressed for an opportunity for discussion in the Commons before the agreement was concluded.



18 Mar.—*U.S.S.R. and China.* The War Office issued notes on the Soviet and Chinese armies, analysing their organization and service conditions. The strength of the Soviet armed forces was given as over 4 m. men, the army's strength being 2·8 m. The Chinese Army was estimated at 2·5 m. men.

HONG KONG. 8 Mar.—*Budget.* The budget for 1951-2, which was presented to the Legislative Council by the Financial Secretary, estimated revenue at \$247 m. and expenditure at \$233 m. The Governor said that the U.S. embargo on exports to China, Hong Kong, and Macao was reducing Hong Kong's trade. Conditions in China had created serious problems in Hong Kong, including the presence of 330,000 squatters threatening public health, security, and order.

HUNGARY. 5 Mar.—It was reported that at a Communist Party conference which ended on 4 March, a further purge of party members was announced. Matyas Rakósi, Deputy Premier, had assumed the joint role of General Secretary and Chairman of the Party. Only one of the four former Socialist members of the Politbureau had been re-elected to the new Politbureau. It was also learned that Miss Anna Kethly, leader of the Socialist centre, had been sentenced to fifteen years' imprisonment after a secret trial.

INDIA. 4 Mar.—*Disorders.* It was learned that a large part of Tripura State, between East Bengal and Assam, had been disturbed for over two years and that the police had been reinforced and the military used to enforce order. Communists were said to be taking advantage of deteriorating economic conditions to spread discontent.

*Pakistan.* Mr Nehru, Prime Minister, said that he had made two unsuccessful appeals to Liaquat Ali Khan, Pakistan Prime Minister, to secure the release of Abdul Ghaffar Khan, a member of the Indian National Congress Committee who had been sentenced to three years' imprisonment in 1948 for anti-Pakistan activities in the North-West Frontier Province. He denied Pakistan reports that Ghaffar Khan had conspired with Indian Nationalist leaders against the Pakistan Government and Pakistan charges that India gave financial aid to Afghanistan.

5 Mar.—*Czechoslovakia.* It was learned that Dr Kratochvil, the Czechoslovak Ambassador in Delhi, had embarked with his wife and son at Bombay on 3 March for London under an assumed name. Dr Kratochvil had recently been summoned to Prague. In a letter to the Czech Government which was published in Delhi, Dr Kratochvil said that since 1948 the Czechoslovak State's independence and integrity had been gradually forfeited and tyrannical conditions established, and he felt it his duty to protest.

10 Mar.—Seven members of the Revolutionary Communist Party of India were sentenced in Calcutta to transportation for life for having taken part in an armed raid.

12 Mar.—*Portugal: Goa.* Referring in Parliament to the Portuguese Government's impending legislation affecting overseas territories, Mr

INDIA (*continued*)

Nehru said that the people of Goa desired a change and that it was India's historic role to free those parts of India under colonial rule.

13 Mar.—*Kashmir*. Mr Nehru, Prime Minister, denied at a press conference the truth of the accusation made by Sir Zafrullah Khan, Pakistan Foreign Minister, in the Security Council, that the occupation of Kashmir by Indian troops had been the result of a conspiracy. He reaffirmed that India was prepared to give every opportunity for a plebiscite in Kashmir, but said she could not permit the occupation of Kashmir by foreign troops or the setting aside of the lawful government there, nor could she break her pledges by refusing to provide security in Kashmir while the danger of foreign invasion existed.

INDO-CHINA. 4 Mar.—It was learned that a counter-attack by French and Viet-Nam forces in central Viet-Nam had driven off Viet-Minh units investing a fort in the Hué region. Enemy losses were stated to be heavy. In the north, an amphibious operation had led to the destruction of forty-four sampans.

*New Government*. It was reported that the new Viet-Namense Government had been installed at Saigon.

10 Mar.—A French and Viet-Nameese combined parachute and naval commando operation was reported to have taken place south-east of Hatin, about 180 miles west of Saigon. A large enemy arms store was captured and eight persons were killed.

11 Mar.—It was reported that a successful French and Viet-Nameese operation had taken place in the Sadec region, south-west of Saigon. More than 100 of the enemy were killed.

INDONESIA. 18 Mar.—*Netherlands*. It was learned that the Netherlands High Commissioner in Indonesia had handed to the Indonesian Government a second protest from the Netherlands Government against the murder of Dutchmen in Indonesia and attacks on their property. It was stated that four Americans, one Australian and hundreds of Indonesians had also been killed since 28 February.

INTERNATIONAL MATERIALS CONFERENCE. 11 Mar.—Co-operation of O.E.E.C. (*see European Economic Co-operation*).

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST CONFERENCE. 4 Mar.—A meeting of the Committee of the International Socialist Conference took place in London attended by delegations from twenty-one Socialist and Social Democratic parties. A resolution was passed proposing that the name of the organization should be changed to 'The Socialist International'. Other resolutions recorded: a protest against the general reprieve of Nazi war criminals and the release of Alfred Krupp; opposition to any attempt to bring Franco Spain into the Atlantic Treaty; and condemnation of the regime in Argentina and of the trial of two Greek Socialists in Greece.

IRELAND. 7 Mar.—*Government Changes.* Mr Costello, Prime Minister, announced the following Cabinet changes: Mr Morrissey, Minister for Industry and Commerce, to become Minister of Justice; Dr O'Higgins, Minister of Defence, to become Minister for Industry and Commerce; and Gen. MacEoin, Minister of Justice, to become Defence Minister.

12 Mar.—Purchase of Great Northern Railway (*see Northern Ireland*).

14 Mar.—Mr McBride on partition (*see United States*).

ISRAEL. 3 Mar.—Khaled Husseini, organizer for the U.N. relief works agency in the Nablus district, was assassinated by unknown persons while travelling in his car.

5 Mar.—*Germany.* It was learned that the Government had asked that their Note of 16 January to the western Powers regarding Israeli claims on Germany should be placed before the four-Power conference meeting in Paris.

12 Mar.—*Germany.* Identical Notes were delivered to the British, U.S., French, and Soviet Governments requesting support for the Israeli claim of \$1,500 m. in reparations from Germany, and asking that full powers should not be handed over to any German Government without reservations being made for repayment of the claim. The claim was stated to be based on expenditure incurred and anticipated in connection with the resettlement of 500,000 Jewish immigrants.

ITALY. 1 Mar.—Following a Government defeat by 5 votes the previous day on the clause of a Bill providing for a census of stocks of raw materials, the Government obtained a majority of 16 in the vote on the Bill as a whole, which Signor De Gasperi, Prime Minister, had previously declared by implication to be a vote of confidence. Many Christian Democrats who opposed the Government's general economic policy and their capacity to carry it through, were absent from the Chamber.

5 Mar.—In a letter to the *Giornale d'Italia*, Signor Silone, Social Democrat, said that since the defection of Signor Cucchi and Signor Magnani from the Communist Party, 10,000 Party members and fellow travellers had followed their example and a considerable crisis had been caused in the Communist camps.

*Arms Stores.* It was reported that two further secret arms stores had been discovered by the police in Milan and Genoa.

6 Mar.—*Defence.* Extra military credits of 250,000 m. lire were approved by the Chamber of Deputies by 325 votes to 16 on a vote of confidence. Communists and left-wing Socialists left the Chamber as a protest before the vote. Signor Pacciardi, Defence Minister, told the Chamber that Italy had received 250,000 m. lire of U.S. aid in the first year of the accelerated programme.

12 Mar.—Visit of Prime Minister and Foreign Minister to Britain (*see Great Britain*).

Following a bomb explosion outside the Foreign Office, several arrests were made, and it was reported that near the scene of the

ITALY (*continued*)

explosion hand-written manifestoes referring to Trieste were found. A similar bomb was later thrown into the garden of the U.S. Embassy but exploded harmlessly.

*Socialist Agreement.* It was announced that Signor Saragat, leader of the Socialist group in the coalition, and Signor Romita, leader of the group outside the Government, had agreed on unification based on support of the Atlantic Treaty and withdrawal of the Saragat group from the Government.

14 Mar.—Anglo-Italian agreement on manpower (*see Great Britain*).

15 Mar.—Anglo-Italian statement on Trieste (*see Great Britain*).

17 Mar.—Signor de Gasperi arrived back in Rome after his visit to London.

JAPAN. 1 Mar.—Mr Dulles on Japan (*see United States*).

7 Mar.—Sentences on war criminals (*see Australia*).

11 Mar.—The second convention of the General Council of Japanese Trade Unions condemned Japanese rearmament and opposed the remilitarization of the police force. A resolution was passed expressing support for a peace treaty with all Japan's former enemies, and for a policy of permanent neutrality and opposition to the leasing of military bases to foreign Powers.

JORDAN. 3 Mar.—Anglo-Jordan financial agreement (*see Great Britain*).

13 Mar.—*United States: Morocco.* It was reported that King Abdullah had sent a telegram to President Truman requesting his intercession with the French Government on behalf of the Moroccan people.

KOREA. 1 Mar.—U.N. forces made further advances on the central front and at the eastern end occupied Ami, thirty-one miles south of the 38th parallel. Communist opposition was reported to have stiffened in some sectors.

2 Mar.—U.S. troops entered Hoengsong unopposed.

4 Mar.—U.N. forces made gains of from one to three miles on the central front in spite of enemy counter-attacks.

5 Mar.—Limited U.N. gains were made on the central front.

6 Mar.—Yongdu, fifteen miles south-west of Hongchon, and Changpyong, at the eastern end of the central front, were reported to have been captured by U.N. forces.

7 Mar.—U.N. forces opened a general offensive on a 55-mile front. A bridgehead over the Han River was established fifteen miles east of Seoul, and gains of up to three miles were made on other sectors. A strong North Korean attack on the eastern front drove South Koreans back from one to three miles.

8 Mar.—U.N. forces advanced from one to three miles along the whole front except at the eastern end where South Koreans were again forced to withdraw.

9 Mar.—Further advances against moderate resistance were reported along the whole front, except in the east where a North Korean counter-attack near Paangnim was repulsed.

11 Mar.—U.N. forces continued to advance. In the east, allied forces halted a North Korean thrust and seized Mount Taemi after a strong counter-attack.

12 Mar.—Communist forces retreated along the whole front. South Korean forces captured Soksa on the road to Kangnung.

13 Mar.—U.N. troops continued to pursue the retreating enemy along the whole front. Enemy losses were estimated at 38,000 in six days.

14 Mar.—Seoul was recaptured by South Korean forces without opposition. Communist forces continued to withdraw.

15 Mar.—U.N. forces captured Hongchon and continued their drive northwards along the whole front. Enemy resistance stiffened in the east-central mountains. U.S. forces took over the occupation of Seoul.

16 Mar.—In central Korea, fifty miles east of Seoul, Communist forces ceased their retreat and put down a heavy artillery barrage. U.S. forces responded with much heavier fire. Elsewhere U.N. units continued to advance and Pungnam, sixteen miles east of Hongchon, was taken by U.S. troops. Gen. MacArthur advised the South Korean President against returning to Seoul because he said the Communists had not suffered a decisive defeat.

18 Mar.—U.N. forces continued their advance. Chunchon, the last town of importance south of the 38th parallel, was reported to have been abandoned by the Communists.

MALAYA. 4 Mar.—It was reported that the number of persons under arrest was 11,530, of which nearly 700 were dependants of arrested persons.

5 Mar.—Bandits in South Johore killed a European estate manager and two Malay policemen. Two other policemen were wounded.

7 Mar.—A European estate assistant was seriously wounded by bandits in Kedah.

Two bandits were killed and four wounded in a police ambush in the Raub area of Pahang.

10 Mar.—*Tin Prices.* The F.M.S. Chamber of Mines issued a statement on behalf of mine operators in Malaya denying the recent charges against producers in the report on tin by a U.S. Senate sub-committee (see *United States*, 4 March). It stated that producers had no control over tin prices and that they had for several years sought, without success, to negotiate a long-term agreement with consumers to stabilize the price and to provide adequate supplies.

11 Mar.—Bandits killed one policeman and wounded three others in the Kuantan area of Pahang.

12 Mar.—Formation of Chinese relief committee for refugees from Malaya (see *China*).

Seven policemen and an Indian superintendent were killed by bandits in different parts of Malaya.



MALAYA (*continued*)

13 Mar.—The High Commissioner announced eleven appointments to portfolios under the new system to decentralize responsibility which provided that the new members of the Legislative Council would be responsible to the High Commissioner and would also act as spokesmen for their departments in the Council.

18 Mar.—Heavy air attacks in support of ground forces were made against bandits in Pahang, Selangor, and Johore.

MOROCCO. 1 Mar.—It was learned that the secretary of the Istiqlal Executive Committee, Mr Barka, had been exiled by decree to a remote town in eastern Morocco and that two members of the party had been arrested for distributing illegal tracts.

2 Mar.—In accordance with the agreement reached between the Sultan and the Residency, the Sultan signed a number of decrees, some of which had been held up for as much as eighteen months. Most of the decrees concerned new appointments to Government posts.

5 Mar.—Egyptian support for Istiqlal (*see Egypt*).  
Egyptian press campaign and Foreign Minister's statement (*see Egypt*).

Gen. Juin, French Resident-General, told the British press that he was favourable to Moroccan reforms but they must start from the bottom and Moroccan democracy must be based on local representation. France's mission was to create a Moroccan State through close union of the two nations. The traditional feudal framework would have to be modified gradually.

6 Mar.—French denials of allegations in Egyptian press (*see France*).

7 Mar.—Gen. Juin's arrival in Paris and denial of rumours (*see France*).

10 Mar. *et seq.*—Arab League's discussion of Morocco (*see Arab League*).

13 Mar.—Jordan request for U.S. intervention (*see Jordan*).

NETHERLANDS. 14 Mar.—*New Government.* The formation of a new four-party Coalition Cabinet under Dr Drees, Prime Minister in the previous Government, was announced. Its composition was similar to its predecessor with the addition of four right-wing portfolios. Dr Stikker was retained as Foreign Minister.

17 Mar.—Presenting the programme of his new Government to Parliament, Dr Drees, Prime Minister, emphasized the importance of maintaining good relations between Indonesia and the Netherlands. He said that with regard to the future of western New Guinea, as the Indonesian Government would only resume negotiations on the condition that its sovereignty was transferred to Indonesia, the Government could only wait. If they decided that a change of policy was necessary they would first consult Parliament. The initial period of military training would be extended from one year to eighteen months. Extra defence expenditure was estimated at 2,000 m. florins including civil defence. Half of this would be raised by taxes and half by loans. To

balance the Budget expenditure would be cut by 150 m. florins. Subsidies on foodstuffs would be reduced from 450 m. to 175 m. florins, and taxation would be increased.

18 Mar.—Protest to Indonesia *re* murder of Dutchmen (*see* Indonesia).

NEW ZEALAND. 1 Mar.—*Strikes*. The Government seized the records of the Waterside Workers Union at Wellington. Troops continued to unload and load ships.

2 Mar.—*Strikes*. The Public Trustee, as receiver, took over control of the funds of the Waterside Workers' Union.

13 Mar.—*Strikes*. The Government decided to suspend the call-up of eighteen-year-old youths and to recall from manoeuvres a cruiser and a frigate in order to provide more service men for use in the industrial crisis.

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY. 13 Mar.—*Liaison*. The appointment was announced of Col. Biddle, U.S. Army, as Deputy Chief of Staff for national affairs to be in charge of liaison with the member nations of the N.A.T.O. It was stated that the liaison officers under Col. Biddle would be responsible to their respective Governments, and that such an appointment was unprecedented at a military H.Q.

NORTHERN IRELAND. 12 Mar.—*Great Northern Railway*. It was announced that, following the rejection of a joint offer, the Governments of Ireland and Northern Ireland had decided to acquire compulsorily the Great Northern Railway at a price of £3·9 m.

NORWAY. 12 Mar.—*European Army*. The Storting unanimously approved the establishment of a Supreme Command for a European Army and the placing of Norwegian troops at its disposal.

PAKISTAN. 4 Mar.—Mr Nehru on Abdul Ghaffar Khan and Pakistani allegations (*see* India).

6 Mar.—*Morocco*. Demonstrations against French policy in Morocco took place in Lahore and elsewhere in Pakistan.

9 Mar.—The Prime Minister, Liaquat Ali Khan, announced the arrest of Gen. Akbar Khan, Army Chief of Staff, together with his wife, Begum Naseem Akbar Khan, for having taken part in plans for a military *coup d'état*. Mr Faiz Ahmed Faiz, editor of the *Pakistan Times* of Lahore, and Brigadier Latif, commander of the Quetta Brigade, were also arrested. The Prime Minister's statement said that a conspiracy had been discovered which was directed against the very foundations of Pakistan's national existence. No details of the plot were given for security reasons.

*Morocco*. Demonstrations against France, Britain, and the United States took place in Karachi in support of the Moroccan nationalists.

12 Mar.—The arrest was announced of Air Commodore Janjua, personnel director of the Royal Pakistan Air Force and senior officer in the service, for alleged complicity in the plot revealed on 9 March.

PAKISTAN (*continued*)

*Punjab Provincial Elections.* Elections for the Punjab Provincial Assembly began on the basis of a simple adult franchise. They were the first to be held in Pakistan on such a basis.

14 Mar.—It was reported that, according to official sources, the Communists played a major part in the conspiracy revealed on 9 March.

PERSIA. 7 Mar.—The Prime Minister, Gen. Ali Razmara, was assassinated by a member of the Fadayian Islam organization, a small, fanatical religious group opposed to western influences. The Shah issued a proclamation calling on the civil and military administration to maintain order, and asked Khalil Fahimi, Minister without Portfolio in Gen. Razmara's Government, to become acting Prime Minister.

8 Mar.—*Oil.* The Parliamentary Oil Committee, which recently rejected the supplementary oil agreement with the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, unanimously recommended to the Majlis that the Company should be nationalized. It asked that the Committee should be given a further two months in which to draw up a nationalization plan.

9 Mar.—In a speech to several thousands in the streets of Teheran, Haji Abdul Ghassem Kashani, religious leader of Fadayian Islam, criticized British and American interference in Persian affairs and urged nationalization of the oil industry. Anti-American demonstrations took place outside the American Embassy.

11 Mar.—Khalil Fahimi, Minister without Portfolio, who had been nominated by the Shah to succeed Gen. Razmara, was rejected by the Majlis by 64 votes to 39.

14 Mar.—*Great Britain: Oil Nationalization.* The British Government presented a Note through its Ambassador in Tehran to the Persian Government. The Note stated that the British Government had regretted that the 1949 supplemental agreement between the Iranian Imperial Government and the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company had failed to secure the ratification of the Majlis in spite of the fact that it would have secured for the Imperial Government a more advantageous return per ton of oil than was enjoyed by any other Middle Eastern Government. It pointed out that despite this rejection an offer had been made by the Company and accepted by the Imperial Government to make advances of royalties which would result in the total payment in 1951 of some £28.5 m. of which the first instalment had already been paid. The Note then said that the British Government had learnt with much concern that the Majlis Oil Commission were contemplating 'nationalization' of the oil industry before the expiry of the Company's concession agreement, and it invited the Imperial Government's urgent attention to the following considerations: (a) the necessity to draw a clear distinction between the principle of nationalization and the expropriation of an industry which had been operating on the security of an agreement valid until 1993 and which had spent enormous sums on development; (b) the company's operations could not legally be terminated by an act such as 'nationalization'; (c) the provision in the 1933 agreement, in the event of differences, to secure the appointment of an arbitrator by

the President of the Permanent Court of International Justice; (d) the Company's expressed willingness to discuss a new agreement on the basis of an equal sharing of profits in Iran, provided an assurance was received that the agreement would run its full course. In conclusion, the Note expressed the British Government's regret that public opinion in Iran had been misled regarding the advantageous terms for Iran of the supplemental agreement, its conviction that the continued collaboration of the Iranian Government with the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company was in the best interests of the Iranian people, and the hope that future discussions on the oil question would take place on a fair basis and in a friendly spirit.

Having received the approval of the Senate and the Majlis, Hussein Ala, a former Ambassador to the United States, was appointed Prime Minister by a decree of the Shah.

The police banned all meetings and demonstrations in Tehran.

15 Mar.—*Oil*. The Majlis confirmed unanimously the Oil Commission's recommendation to nationalize the oil industry and extended the Commission's life for another two months to enable it to prepare nationalization plans. It also added an amendment allowing the Commission to call on the advice of foreign experts in dealing with oil problems. Enthusiastic applause from a crowd of about 1,000 people outside the Chamber greeted the decision to nationalize.

18 Mar.—*Finance*. To meet a critical financial situation caused by the failure of Parliament to pass a Bill to increase the note issue, the Majlis empowered the Persian National Bank to call in, within three months, and withdraw from circulation, all notes of 1,000 and 500 rials and replace them with notes of smaller amounts. Cash reserves of the National Bank were said to have fallen by 50 per cent in the last six months.

It was reported that attempts to form a new Government had broken down.

*Oil*. The text of the British Note of 14 March was reported to have been printed in all influential newspapers in Tehran.

POLAND. 11 Mar.—U.S. ban on liner *Batory* (see *United States*).

17 Mar.—The resignation was announced of Mr Modzelewski, the Foreign Minister, and one of the old guard of the Polish Communist Party. Dr Skrzyszewski, deputy Minister, was appointed in his place.

PORTUGAL. 12 Mar.—Mr Nehru on future of Goa (see *India*).

RHODESIAS. 8 Mar.—*Southern Rhodesia*. Sir Godfrey Huggins, Prime Minister, after resigning, formed a new Government which included all previous Ministers except Mr Halsted, former Minister of Trade and Industrial Development, who was excluded as a result of the recent petrol controversy.

18 Mar.—Mr Welensky, chairman of the unofficial members of Northern Rhodesia's Legislative Council, said in a statement to the Cape Town Africaner newspaper *Die Burger* that the British Govern-

RHODESIAS (*continued*)

ment would be wise to dispel the rising public opinion that they were disinterested in the fate of central Africa's Europeans. He said that with the existing goodwill between Europeans and Africans, central Africa could best be governed and developed by a policy 'somewhere between that followed in the Union of South Africa and that of Britain's Labour Government'.

SIAM. 9 Mar.—It was reported from Bangkok that a plot to overthrow the Siamese Government had been discovered and a number of officers had been arrested.

SOUTH AFRICA. 8 Mar.—*Representation of Non-Europeans Bill*. The debate on the Bill opened in the House of Assembly.

15 Mar. *Budget*. Mr Havenga, Finance Minister, tabled estimates of expenditure of £174 m. (an increase of £21 m. over the estimate for the current year). Defence expenditure was estimated at £16 m. which was double the figure for 1950-1.

SPAIN. 12 Mar.—*Barcelona Strike*. A secretly-organized 24-hour strike of 300,000 workers was held in Barcelona as a protest against the rising cost of living. Clashes occurred with the police and six persons were injured. Dr Baeza, the Civil Governor, issued a notice attributing the strike to Communist agitators. Trade Union leaders appealed for a return to work and said that the earlier instructions to strike which purported to come from the trade unions were false.

13 Mar.—*Barcelona Strike*. About 150,000 workers were estimated to have remained on strike, but tension slackened and no further incidents were reported. Nearly 800 persons were said to have been arrested. The Government sent four warships to Barcelona and announced that all arrested strikers would be dismissed from their work and severe measures would be taken against employers who paid their workers for time lost on strike.

The Cortes approved a Bill raising the salaries of State employees by 20 per cent and police salaries by 30 per cent.

15 Mar.—Conditions in Barcelona were reported to be normal after the three-day strike.

16 Mar.—U.S. loan of \$5 m. (*see United States*).

SWITZERLAND. 13 Mar.—*Czechoslovakia*. It was announced that Mr Brotan, First Secretary of the Czechoslovak Legation in Berne, had left the Legation about a fortnight earlier. He was believed to be still in Switzerland and was reported to have asked the Swiss Government for asylum.

SYRIA. 9 Mar.—Mr Nazim el Kudsi's Populist Government resigned after seven months in office.

13 Mar.—It was reported that one of the four men (two Egyptians, an Iraqi and a Palestinian) sentenced to death on 12 March for the



attempted murder in August 1950 of Col. Shishakli, deputy chief of the army, had confessed that they belonged to the 'Arab Suicide Squad'.

**TURKEY. 2 Mar.**—Request to United States for security commitment (*see United States*).

**8 Mar.**—Mr Menderes, Prime Minister, tendered the Government's resignation to President Jelal Bayar.

**12 Mar.**—Protest to Bulgaria *re* searching of diplomatic courier (*see Bulgaria*).

## UNITED NATIONS

### ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

**4 Mar.**—*Steel.* The steel division of the E.C.E. published a report of the steel position in Europe and the outlook for the next three years. According to the report, steel production in western Europe in 1950 amounted to 52,213,000 metric tons compared with 8,041,000 tons in the eastern European countries (excluding Yugoslavia) and an estimated production in Soviet Russia of 24 million tons. Western Europe's production was estimated to reach 63,230,000 tons by 1953 as against 10,770,000 in the eastern satellite countries.

**9 Mar.**—*Coal.* It was learned that the Coal Committee of E.C.E. had agreed on a scheme for distributing coal and coke among European countries.

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY

#### *Collective Measures Committee*

**5 Mar.**—At the first meeting of the Committee (which was set up under the Acheson Plan with the intention of overcoming the Soviet veto in the Security Council), Mr Bancroft (United States) put forward broad proposals for a world security system on the following lines: (1) organization and co-ordination of special military units to be set aside by member States for U.N. service; (2) creation of a volunteer United Nations legion; (3) the co-ordination of regional defence agreements into a global pattern of collective action against aggression. He urged that detailed plans should be prepared.

#### *Committee of Twelve*

**4 Mar.**—The first meeting took place of the Committee which was set up to consider the merging of the two U.N. commissions on atomic energy and conventional armaments. After the conclusion of the meeting, Mr Nash, the U.S. chairman, challenged the Soviet Union to allow the French plan for an international census of conventional armaments, which had been rejected by the Soviet Government, to be put into operation.

#### *Good Offices Committee*

**7 Mar.**—*Korea.* It was learned that the Committee had sent two communications to Peking through Swedish diplomatic channels and that no reply had so far been received.

UNITED NATIONS (*continued*)  
SECURITY COUNCIL

1 *Mar.*—*Kashmir*. Sir Benegal Rau, the Indian delegate, rejected the Anglo-American proposals for a settlement as 'wholly unacceptable' and said that his Government could not agree to the entry of foreign troops in Kashmir or any other part of India for the purposes of a plebiscite. He stated that in view of existing provisions there could be no supersession of, or interference with, the existing Government of Kashmir, and that the plans to set up a constituent assembly for Jammu and Kashmir were not intended to prejudice the issues before the Security Council. He suggested that the dispute should be passed back for settlement by India and Pakistan themselves.

6 *Mar.*—*Kashmir*. Sir Zafrullah Khan, Pakistan Foreign Minister, asked for wider powers, particularly with regard to demilitarization, for the United Nations' mediator in the Kashmir dispute, and, in view of India's rejection of the Anglo-American proposals, he urged the Council to issue an injunction to the Indian Government and Kashmir authorities to refrain from the proposed elections. He said that both India and Pakistan should be called upon to withdraw their respective forces in Kashmir and to co-operate fully with the U.N. mediator. He maintained that India had based her claims on the false assumption that she was in lawful occupation of Kashmir, and he asserted that in fact the occupation had been brought about as the result of a conspiracy hatched in 1947 between the Hindu ruler of Kashmir and Indian leaders.

9 *Mar.*—*Kashmir*. Sir Benegal Rau (India) stated in the resumed debate that the Constituent Assembly to be convoked by Sheikh Abdullah's regime could, in the Indian view, express an opinion on the question of Kashmir's future, but it could take no decision.

UNITED STATES. 1 *Mar.*—Soviet Note *re* four-Power conference (*see U.S.S.R.*).

*Japan*. Mr J. F. Dulles outlined in a broadcast four basic principles in the recent discussions he had had with the allies and Japan. These were: (1) that the peace treaty should restore full sovereign rights to Japan; (2) that Japan should regain economic independence; (3) the establishment of close cultural relations between Japan and the West; (4) that the peace should give Japan reasonable security. Mr Dulles said that the Government considered that Japan would eventually have to share in collective security measures for the area, and he said that the Government were sympathetic to some arrangement in the Pacific which would allay Australian and New Zealand fears concerning Japanese rearmament by making clear that any armed attack on those countries would be considered dangerous to U.S. security.

*Export Control*. The Department of Commerce announced that licences would be required for all exports to the Soviet Union and to Soviet satellite countries, including shipments from other countries passing through U.S. trade zones.

2 *Mar.*—Gen. Norstad on increase of U.S. air strength in Europe (*see Germany*).

*Turkey.* The State Department confirmed reports that the Turkish Government had made a formal approach through their Ambassador for a firmer security commitment from the United States.

3 Mar.—*U.S.S.R.: Japan.* Mr Malik, Soviet delegate to the U.N., stated that he would not resume negotiations on a Japanese peace treaty. He said a statement to the press by Mr Dulles on 28 February that he had expressed willingness to continue negotiations was groundless.

4 Mar.—U.S. participation in Colombo Plan (*see Ceylon*).

*Tin Prices.* A report of a sub-committee of the Senate Committee on Armed Services stated that excessive prices were being asked for tin which was in the hands of a relatively few British, Dutch, Belgian, and Bolivian corporations, and suggested that an international conference of consumers and producers should be called, and that reasonable fixed prices should be negotiated by Governments.

5 Mar.—*U.S.S.R.: Japan.* The State Department issued a statement on Mr Malik's remarks of 3 March concerning a Japanese peace treaty. It declared that the United States would persist in securing an overall peace but would concede to no one the right to veto peace. Soviet attempts to attain a veto position had already delayed a settlement.

*Counter-Propaganda.* President Truman asked Congress to increase 'Voice of America' funds by \$97.5 m. to help counter Communist propaganda.

Malayan company's reply *re tin prices* (*see Malaya*).

*Four-Power Conference q.v.*

6 Mar.—*Germany.* Revision of Charter of Allied High Commission (*see Great Britain*).

Revision of the Statement of Principles on Berlin and of the Occupation Statute (*see Germany*).

*Tin.* It was announced that the Government was suspending all purchases of tin for the national stockpile until the price, which had recently risen sharply, fell to a reasonable level.

8 Mar.—*Atlantic Treaty.* The joint Senate committees on foreign affairs and armed services passed an amendment requiring that Congressional approval be obtained of any policy involving the assignment of U.S. troops abroad in implementation of the North Atlantic Treaty.

9 Mar.—*Defence.* A Bill providing for the drafting of 18-year-old youths for two years' military service and fixing a limit of four million for the total man-power of the armed services was approved by the Senate by 79 votes to 5. (The Administration had proposed a twenty-seven months' length of service and had not fixed a man-power limit.)

11 Mar.—*Rockefeller Report.* President Truman published the report prepared for him by the International Development Advisory Board under the direction of Mr Nelson Rockefeller. It recommended putting \$2,000 m. into an economic offensive against hunger and poverty as a counter-measure to Communism.

*Poland.* The New York City commissioner of marine and aviation announced that after completion of its next voyage to New York on 3 April, the Polish liner *Batory* would be disallowed use of any piers under his jurisdiction on security grounds.

UNITED STATES (*continued*)

12 Mar.—Israeli Note *re* claim on Germany (*see Israel*).

*Tin.* The Administration took over the buying and selling of tin as a measure to keep down high prices.

*Argentina.* Mr Miller, Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, expressed deep concern over the situation of *La Prensa*.

*Defence.* The House armed services committee agreed unanimously to lower the draft age from nineteen to eighteen and a half and to extend the term of service from twenty-one to twenty-six months.

13 Mar.—*Defence.* The Senate committees on foreign relations and armed services approved an amendment specifically exempting the four divisions already detailed for Europe from the scope of the amendment adopted on 8 March. They refused, by 13 votes to 11, to cancel the provision requiring Congressional approval for the despatch of further troops.

*Defence.* President Truman signed the Bill authorizing a \$2,000 m. naval construction and conversion programme.

14 Mar.—*Defence: Atlantic Treaty.* The Senate joint committee on foreign relations and armed services issued a report which supported the sending of four additional divisions to Europe, recommended the inclusion of Spain, Yugoslavia, Turkey, and Greece in the western alliance, and urged west German participation in western defence planning.

The House armed services committee voted against any limit on the strength of the armed forces, and approved, by 32 votes to 3, the military training Bill lowering the draft age from nineteen to eighteen and a half and extending the term of service to twenty-six months.

*Disarmament.* In a letter to a group of members of Congress, President Truman said that the U.S. defence programme, if executed, would discourage aggression and might eventually lead to a change of Soviet tactics. Any disarmament programme must include all kinds of weapons, must have the unanimous agreement of all strongly-armed nations, and must be so policed as to be fool-proof. To achieve it without open interchange of information across frontiers would be almost impossible, and freedom of communications was therefore a necessary step in any effective disarmament programme.

*Ireland.* Mr McBride, Irish Minister of External Affairs, said in an address to the National Press Club in Washington that partition was a cause of such feeling in Ireland that no Irish Government could attempt, without being immediately driven from office, to enter into a military alliance with Britain. Ireland intended to achieve its rightful freedom and independence.

*Defence: Atlantic Treaty.* The Senate unanimously approved the despatch of four additional divisions to Europe.

15 Mar.—*Korea: 38th Parallel.* Senator Knowland (Republican) quoted to the Senate a telegram from Gen. MacArthur to the President of the United Press which said that conditions in Korea did not favour positional warfare on any line across the peninsula and there were no natural defences anywhere near the 38th parallel. To establish a

conventional defence system would require a force sizeable enough to enable U.N. forces to drive the Communists back across the Yalu River and to hold that river as the defence line. Under existing realities a war of manoeuvre was the best military policy. Senator Knowland asserted that in the light of this reply Gen. MacArthur should be allowed to cross the 38th parallel.

16 Mar.—*Spain*. A loan of \$5 m. was granted to Spain through the Export-Import Bank for the purchase of wheat. (The loan was additional to the \$12.2 m. granted on 13 February).

U.S.S.R. 1 Mar.—*Four-Power Conference*. A Soviet reply to the three western Powers' Note of 19 February accepted the proposal that the preliminary conference should be held in Paris on 5 March.

5 Mar.—*Four-Power Conference q.v.*

7 Mar.—Soviet protest to Britain *re* detention of barges in Berlin (see *Germany*).

*Budget*. The Finance Minister announced the Budget for 1951-52 which provided for a total revenue of 457,992 m. roubles and a total expenditure of 451,503 m. roubles including 96,400 m. roubles for defence.

12 Mar.—The Supreme Soviet adopted a law forbidding war propaganda as 'a crime against humanity'.

Israeli Note *re* claim on Germany (see *Israel*).

18 Mar.—British notes on Soviet army (see *Great Britain*).

WEST INDIES. 1 Mar.—*Grenada*. It was reported that the strike leader, E. M. Gairy, who was in custody, had demanded his release as a condition for calling off the strike.

6 Mar.—*Grenada*. The Governor of the Windward Islands ordered the release of Eric Gairy and Gascoigne Blaize, leaders of the strike. Violence broke out again, and one man was killed when police opened fire on a mob. Several arrests were made.

7 Mar.—*Grenada*. Further incendiarism was reported. Strikers decided not to resume work till 12 March in spite of a request from E. Gairy that they should go back that day.

13 Mar.—*Grenada*. It was reported that Grenada sugar estate labourers had resumed work but that the strike was continuing on other estates and sporadic incidents were still occurring.

15 Mar.—*Grenada*. Three persons were shot dead and three wounded when the police fired on a mob which had attacked them. E. M. Gairy broadcast another appeal to end violence.

18 Mar.—*Grenada*. Pillaging and incendiarism was reported to be continuing in Grenada. E. M. Gairy announced a strike of domestic servants to start on 1 April.

YEMEN. 10 Mar.—Anglo-Yemeni agreement (see *Great Britain*).

YUGOSLAVIA. 1 Mar.—Marshal Tito said in answer to press questions that Yugoslavia would ask for aid in the event of an aggressive



YUGOSLAVIA (*continued*)

threat by overwhelming forces of the Soviet satellites. He thought, however, that if they attacked alone their fighting spirit would be such that they would not be formidable opponents.

5 Mar.—The Communist Party paper, *Borba*, stated that refugees reaching Nish from Bulgaria during the past month had reported troop reinforcements and military preparations on the Bulgarian side of the frontier.

9 Mar.—*U.S.S.R. and Soviet Satellites*. The Foreign Ministry issued a White Book on the 'aggressive activities' of the Soviet Union and her satellites against Yugoslavia. Mr Vejvoda, deputy Foreign Minister, commenting on the book, described the serious military measures being taken by Bulgaria, Rumania, and Hungary all along the Yugoslav frontier and said that the presence of Soviet troops close to the border in Rumania and Hungary represented a direct military threat to Yugoslavia.

11 Mar.—*Trieste*. In an address to the Union of Yugoslav War Veterans, Marshal Tito deplored the raising by Russia of the issue of Trieste at the four-Power conference in Paris. He said that the question could easily be solved later by Italy and Yugoslavia themselves and that Russia's object was to stir up trouble between the two countries.

16 Mar.—*Trieste*. The Belgrade paper, *Politika*, reflecting the official view, published a leading article which declared that the three-Power declaration on Trieste was a one-sided imposition which was unacceptable to Yugoslavia.

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